

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04461 151450Z
ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T DAMASUS 4461

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SY, IS
SUBJECT: NATURE OF PEACE--DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION

1. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD WITH SYRIAN LEADERSHIP OVER THE NATURE OF PEACE, THEY HAVE BEEN AT THEIR MOST EMOTIONAL WHEN DISCUSSING DIPLOMATIC RECONITION OF ISRAEL BY THE ARAB STATES. THEY HAVE BEEN THE ONESE TO RASIE THE QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. MOST OFTEN THEY APPEAR TO ASSUME WE WILL BE URGING QUICK FORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS UPON THE ARABS. THEY ARGUE THAT EVEN TALKING OF SUCH A STEP OS OUT OF THE QUESTION ESPECIALLY NOW WHEN THEY VIEW ISRAEL AS TOTALLY UNBENDING. THEY INDULGE IN FLIGHTS OF RHETORIC CITING "HISTORICAL PRECDEDENTS" FROM 7S. HISTORY CONCERNING PERIODS WHEN WE REFUSED FORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, CHINA, CUBA, VIETNAM, ETC., ETC. UNTIL THEY TRIUMPHANTLY RUN OUT OF BREATH.

2. SYRIAN REACTION IS AN AMALGAM OF POSTURING AND GENUINE SHOCK THAT WE MAY REALLY BE SERIOUS ABOUT PUSHING
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AHEAD WITH DISCUSSIONS ON THE NATURE OF PEACE. THE WHOLE CONCEPTS IS NEW AND DISBURBING TO THIS LEADERSHIP, ALTHOUGH LESS SO TO MANY PRIVATE SYRIANS AND MID-LEVEL OFFICIALS OF OUR ACUAINANCE).

3. THE MORE WE CONCENTRATE ON THE BITE-SIZE IDEAS OF A TIME TABLE FOR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR THIRD COUNTRY

NATIONALS AND AIRCRAFT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB WORLD
AND THE WINDING DOWN OF THE BOYCOTT, TO CITE
TWO EXAMPLES, THE MORE LIKELY WE ARE TO HAVE A RATIONAL
DISCUSSION ON THE NATURE OF PEACE, HOPEFULLY MANEUVERING
SYRIANS INTO COMING UP WITH SOME IDEAS OF THEIR OWN.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

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